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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Toshihiro Shima
Application No. 09/810,949
Filed: March 16, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 04783/018001

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: DECISION GRANTING
: PETITION
:
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This is a decision on the paper filed August 6, 2001, which is being treated as a petition requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of March 16, 2001, rather than the presently accorded filing date of March 18, 2001.

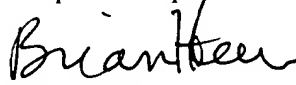
Petitioners allege that the application was deposited in Express Mail service on March 16, 2001. In support, the petition is accompanied by a copy of Express Mail receipt No. EL656796428US (the same Express Mail number found on the original application papers located in the official file).

A review of USPS records conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office prior to this decision using "USPTO's USPS Express Mail Information Database" reveals that the date and time the package identified by Express Mail receipt EL656796428US was accepted by the USPS is March 16, at 4:51 pm.

In view of the above, the petition is granted. The application will be accorded a filing date of March 16, 2001.

This application is being forwarded to the Office of Initial Patent Examination Division for further processing with a filing date of March 16, 2001, and issuance of a corrected filing receipt. Afterwards, the application will be forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 2861 for examination in due course.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to Karen Creasy at (703) 305-8859.


Brian Hearn
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for Patent Examination Policy